Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 086302

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, HA, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-HAITI RELATIONS: HAITIAN AMBASSADOR CALLS ON DEPARTMENT

1. HAITIAN AMBASSADOR SALOMON CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN APRIL 13 TO OUTLINE HAITIAN VIEWS AND INTERESTS ON A RANGE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. SALOMON WAS INFORMED OF CURRENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA, REASSURED OF CONTINUED U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE RIO TREATY, AND ASSURED OF CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR HAITI'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. IN REPLY TO REQUEST FOR FURTHER SECURITY ASSISTANCE, THE AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD THAT THE TREND OF OUR MILITARY AID IS TOWARD REDUCTION OF COMMITMENTS. TODMAN STRESSED THROUGHOUT THAT WE VALUE OUR FRIENDSHIP AND TIES WITH HAITI.

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- 2. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TODMAN SAID WE KNOW HAITI HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE STILL HEAR STORIES OF POOR PRISON CONDITIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND OF SOME PRISONERS BEING HELD WITHOUT CHARGES OR ACCESS TO FAMILY.
- 3. SALOMON REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT DUVALIER WISHES TO

ELIMINATE ALL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND IS CONSIDERING

FURTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE GOH PERFORMANCE. FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, SECURITY, AND POLITICAL REASONS, EVERYTHING CANNOT BE DONE AT ONCE. THE GOH DOES WISH TO ENSURE THAT NO PRISONERS ARE HELD WITHOUT PROPER CHARGES. ALSO, IT IS CONSTRUCTING A NEW PRISON TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR PRISONERS AND ALLOW THEM TO RECEIVE FAMILY VISITS. AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF FURTHER STEPS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD MAY BE MADE BEFORE LONG.

SALOMON ALSO EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER TO VISIT HAITI. THE TONE OF THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT.

4. FULL MEMCON OF MEETING BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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INVITATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS

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